

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13 and 15-17 will be pending.

The prior claims have been rejected under section 112, and under section 102, in view of Fernandez. It is believed that the amendments presented herein overcome the rejections.

New independent claim 16 recites a pneumatic paintball marker adapter kit having, generally, a (single) universal barrel, a plurality of adapters and a plurality of inserts. The universal barrel is substantially longer than the adapters. The adapters each have the same size barrel connection for detachable connection to the (single) universal barrel, and each have a marker end (for connection to a front portion of a marker) that is a different size, for connection to one of the plurality of markers having different sized front portions. In addition, the kit includes a plurality of inserts adapted to extend the entire length of an assembly of an adapter and the universal barrel.

Prior to the present invention, to provide for paintball markers having front portions of different sizes, one would need a plurality of full-length barrels, each full-length barrel having a breech end of a different size. Such a plurality of full-length barrels is inconveniently bulky and heavy. The substantial benefit provided by the invention recited in claim 16 over the prior art is the ability use a single “universal” (substantially long) barrel for a variety of paintball markers having front ends of different sizes, using a minimum number of parts of minimal size and weight to adapt that universal barrel to the variety of paintball markers. In the kit of the present invention, the universal barrel is substantially longer than the adapters. Thus the multiple adapters are substantially short and of substantially reduced size and weight as compared to a plurality of full-length barrels.

Fernandez discloses a conventional two-part barrel assembly having a self-centering connection for the two pieces. The Fernandez device has a single “shank” connected to the marker and multiple “muzzle” connectable to free end of the shank. The shank portion is substantially equal in length to the muzzle portion and indeed forms a majority of what is commonly referred to as the barrel. In contrast to the present invention, Fernandez does not disclose or suggest the use of multiple adapters between a (single) universal barrel and a paintball marker. Nor does Fernandez disclose or suggest a universal barrel that is

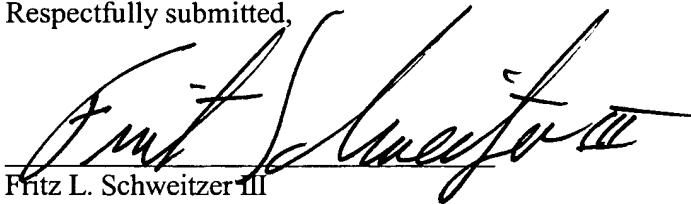
substantially longer than such adapters, or inserts that extend the full length of an assembly of such an adapter and universal barrel. Therefore, neither Fernandez nor any other reference of record, or combination thereof, discloses or suggest the invention recited in claim 16.

Claim 15, as amended, includes the elements recited in claim 16 as well as a plurality of muzzle extensions of various lengths. Therefore, it is believed that claim 15, as amended overcomes the rejections raised under section 112 and, as with new claim 16, is patentable over the references of record.

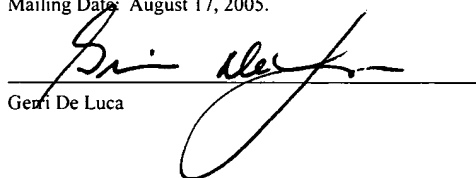
In light of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be reconsidered and allowed.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Mailing Date: August 17, 2005.


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